

Public Hearing Bill SB207, An Act Concerning Funding for a Lyme Disease Prevention and Education Program 2/5/15

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, members of the Children's Committee. My name is Carolyn Goodridge and I live in Windsor Locks. I am testifying in support of SB207. Connecticut is the center of Lyme disease, which is a very debilitating disease, especially for those who already have autoimmune issues. When I contracted the disease a few years ago, the symptoms were similar to encephalitis with severe headache, body aches and tremors. After the antibiotic treatment, the major symptoms went away, but whenever I become fatigued, some symptoms re-occur. The medical community has mixed opinions about Lyme being a chronic disease, but those symptoms are so distinctive. I have known many others with similar reactions. Since having Lyme, I cannot take medications that I had previously taken due to side effects. I am afraid now to enjoy the outdoors in the spring and summer for fear of a tick bite. Much more research and preventive work needs to be done. The testing procedures are questionable, and I have known people who were put through rigorous testing for Lupus, cancer, etc. when their issue turned out to be Lyme disease. I am concerned that many citizens of Connecticut treat Lyme lightly and don't realize how serious it can be. There have been questions raised that Lyme stays in the system and can be transmitted to children if the mother had Lyme disease. Please support this bill.

Carolyn Goodridge
Windsor Locks, CT 06096